

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/5/2006 has been entered.

***Remarks***

2. Receipt of Applicant's Preliminary Amendment, filed on 08/18/2008, is acknowledged. The amendment includes the cancellation of claims 8, 11-13, 15, 21-24, and 34, and the amending of claims 31, 35-36, and 41-42.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 1-7, 9-10, 14, 16-20, 25-33, and 35-43 are allowed and now renumbered as 1-33.

***Reasons for Allowance***

4. The following is an examiner's statement for reasons for allowance:

Prior art fails to teach a combination of elements including an application system for providing SQL database queries to the database system, the database system coupled to the application system via a first connection over a network; and

Wherein, when the return path is chosen to be the storage system, the results are sent to the storage system as a file and an address in the storage system for the file is provided to the application system using the first connection;

Wherein the file has associated therewith a key and the key is used to control access to the results, and also has associated therewith a flag to indicate status of the file, and wherein the flag indicates at least one of whether the file is being written, is ready to be read, is being read, and is available to be deleted, as recited in independent claims 1, 17, 28, 30, 31, 33, 41, and 42.

Specifically, the prior art generally mentions returning query results over different paths, but does not mention using keys, flags, and file addresses as part of returning process.

These features, together with the other limitations of the independent claims are novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record. The dependent claims 2-7, 9-10, 14, 16, 18-20, 25-27, 29, 32, 35-40, and 43 as being definite, enabled by the specification, and further limiting to the independent claim, are also allowable.

***Contact Information***

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mahesh Dwivedi whose telephone number is (571) 272-2731. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 8:20 am – 4:40 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Vo can be reached (571) 272-3642. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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